BULLETIN
OF THE WORLD COUNCIL
OF PEACE

No. 21 (2nd. Year) NOVEMBER 15, 1955

32.26.61

Active Expression for Public Opinion

THE attention of world public opinion is centred on Geneva, where the foreign ministers of the U.S.A., the Soviet Union, Great Britain and France are met together to apply the directive agreed by their heads of government last July.

Amid the profusion of proposals and counter-proposals and the confusion of press comment thereon we need to keep the policy of the peace movement constantly before the public. The movement has never tried to do the job of the diplomats, but on the more important questions it has put forward a number of principles; the more these are known, understood and pressed forward the better will the peoples be able to weigh up the different official plans and the more effectively will public opinion be able to express itself.

Over a period of years public opinion has more and more clearly converged in support of certain ideas: —

General progressive disarmament, including the banning of nuclear weapons and the destruction of stocks, with a strict and fair control system making evasion impossible by any country;

A peaceful solution of the German question based on demilitarisation, the non-inclusion of Germany in any military bloc, and reunification;

Establishment of comprehensive security systems and abandonment of military blocs;

The seating of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations;

The removal of all trade barriers and the development of the fullest economic and cultural co-operation between all countries.

In the present negotiations many different proposals will be made in search of compromise solutions. The peace movement will support any proposal which goes in the right direction, however modest and whatever government makes it. But the governments will move in the right direction only to the extent that public opinion, led by the peace movement, keeps up its pressure for clear-cut objectives during the conference, after the conference, and until our aims are achieved.

It is not enough for the peace forces to call for agreement in general terms. If a deputations says "we want the Foreign Ministers to reach agreement," the answer can be "Yes, of course, we all do, but . . ." But when, for example, during the National Lobby Day in Great Britain, a group of miners say to their Member of Parliament: "We want the Ministers to reach agreement and here is a letter signed by 400 men in our pit insisting that you support a reduction in military expenditure, the banning of nuclear weapons, etc.," then that M.P. knows that this is the result of informed and organised public opinion in action and has to take note of it.

Important actions have been organised by national peace movements in recent weeks. As a result, public opinion is once more making its presence clearly felt at Geneva. The most effective of these have been those which put forward clear, practical proposals linked with their national problems. Italians not only call for collective security, disarmament and other points of principle but also insist on the "elimination of foreign bases on Italian soil and in all countries." In Australia the question of disarmament and nuclear weapons is linked with the testing of nuclear weapons and guided missiles on Australian soil, and other questions directly affecting the daily life of the Australian people. The principle questions raised by the national peace movements in Latin America as touching their peoples most closely have been the safeguarding of their national raw materials and the rapid expansion of multilateral trade relations.

As the Appeal of the Bureau of the World Council of Peace says: "People want the benefits of the relaxation to be brought into their daily life." By putting forward clear-cut proposals bound up with the daily life of the people the peace movement can effectively build up and unify public opinion and give it active expression.

IN THIS ISSUE

*

Page

Two messages 2

The people demand new steps towards co-operation and relaxation of tension 3

News about activity in:
France and Sweden 4
Germany 5
the United States, Canada and the Netherlands 6
Brazil 7

Geneva during the conference 8 & 9

News about activities in:
India 10
Great Britain and Italy ... 11
Australia, Pakistan and Greece 12
Japan 13

Italian writers welcome Sholokhov's proposal for a world round-table meeting— a good example of cultural exchange 14

Nobel Prize for Halldor Laxness — cultural anniversaries .. 15

Argentine Peace Council affirms its position 16

TWO MESSAGES

The two messages given on this page are evidence of the desire for agreement felt by wide sections of public opinion and of the real possibilities of agreement opened by negotiation.

A Message to the Foreign Ministers, signed by Bertrand Russell, Lord Boyd-Orr, Sir Richard Coppock (President of the National Federation of Building Trade Operatives) and Professor C. F. Powell, F.R.S., was endorsed by a public meeting in the Central Hall, London, on October 21. The full text of this message is as follows:

The outstanding achievement of the meeting of the Heads of Government which was held in July at Geneva was the substitution of expected agreement for the bitterness of the cold war.

They directed their Foreign Ministers to continue the consideration of the questions on which an exchange of views had taken place and to propose effective means for their solution.

This determination, that agreements shall be reached, is the first thing needed before the new era of peace, for which all of us hope, can be soundly built.

It is now for the Foreign Ministers to endeavour to fulfil the instructions of the Heads of Government. It is for them to begin the process whereby good words are turned into good deeds.

At this moment, so crucial for the future of man, we should like to bring to the attention of the Foreign Ministers the warning signed by some of the most eminent scientific authorities in different parts of the world, which dealt with the perils of nuclear war.

That statement suggested that neither the public nor the governments of the world are adequately aware of the dangers facing the human race.

We feel that statement still to be true; and that the Foreign Ministers need to approach their discussions with a deeper awareness of these dangers.

The Foreign Ministers, like all of us, have to learn to think in a new way. They have to ask themselves how they can reach specific agreements on the problems before them so that they will rule out any military contest of which the result must be disastrous to all.

We do not expect that everything can be settled at once; but we feel that a start should be made and that the Ministers can, if they so wish, avoid the set-back of an empty-handed return. Even if final solutions cannot at this stage be reached, at least some interim agreement should be sought, to provide time for further improvements in the situation.

We wish to impress on them the view that agreements on one problem will improve the possibility of agreement on others; but that disagreement on any one problem should not rule out discussion and negotiation of others.

On the question of Germany and European security, it is good that the governments have recognised that these problems are closely linked. There can be no stable peace while Germany remains disunited, but its unification must be brought about in a way which will not involve an important accession of strength to either East or West and will help to end the division of Europe into two hostile blocs.

On the question of a disarmament plan involving reduction of conventional arms, the abolition of nuclear weapons and an effective scheme of control, the viewpoints of both sides now seem so close that agreement ought to be possible, if, as we hope, the Foreign Ministers of both East and West recognise the new spirit of which there is evidence, and do not regard its manifestation either as a trap or as a proof of weakness.

On the question of improving contacts between East and West, much good has already been done. More, however, can be achieved if further measures are taken to increase visits and exchanges of information between the peoples of the world. An easing of the restrictions of trade between East and West would not only make for a friendlier spirit, but would contribute greatly towards the economic stability of the world.

Although the Foreign Ministers will not be discussing the subject of China, parallel conversations will continue between representatives of that country and the U.S.A. It is our hope that the American Government will recognise the Peking Government and agree to its admission in the United Nations.

The division of the world into two hostile camps is not in the interests of either side. A further relaxation of tension is possible if the Foreign Ministers approach their arduous tasks in the right frame of mind.

In making the cold war a nightmare of the past, the Foreign Ministers will have the support not merely of the peoples of both sides, but of the species Man.

Lord BOYD ORR, F.R.S. (Nobel Prize Winner)
Sir Richard COPPOCK, C.B.E.
Professor C. F. POWELL, F.R.S. (Nobel Prize Winner)
Earl(Bertrand)RUSSELL, O.M., F.R.S. (Nobel Prize Winner)

*

The following statement was issued in Lyons on October 25:

Political figures from various countries of East and West met in Lyons on Tuesday, October 25, with Mr. Edouard Herriot, Honorary President of the National Assembly, in the chair.

On the eve of the conference of the four Foreign Ministers in Geneva they call the attention of public opinion to the need for the governments to carry forward the attempt to ease international tension undertaken last July at the meeting of the Heads of Government of the Four Great Powers.

They recognise that in the present state of affairs, and in spite of the meritorious work of conciliation already done, the negotiations will be difficult and arduous and will not be able to reach a final settlement of all disputed issues.

They note that at least on one important point — the reduction and control of armaments — the positions have come so close that an agreement to implement this can rapidly be reached.

Where European security is concerned, the four Foreign Ministers should, taking the plans put forward by both sides during the previous months as a basis, seek an agreement which can make it possible to tackle the problem of German reunification more effectively.

Finally, the Conference must ensure the normalisation and development of exchanges between all countries of East and West.

The personalities meeting in Lyons hope that the governments will take the aspirations of world public opinion into account, put an end to the cold war, and advance further along the road of international co-operation.

The following personalities took part in the conference, which was held in the Lyons Town Hall with Mr. Edouard Herriot in the chair:

Mr. LIU Ning I, member of the Standing Committee of the Chinese People's National Assembly;
Lord FARINGDON, member of the British House of Lords;
Sir Leslie PLUMMER, British Labour M.P.;
Mr. Dominique HORODINSKI, member of the Polish Diet;
Professor Oscar LANGE, member of the Polish Council of State;
Mr. Ilya EHRENBURG, member of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.;
Dr. Diether POSSER, deputy to Dr. Heinemann, former minister in the German Federal Government.
Mr. Riccardo LOMBARDI, member of the Italian Parliament, representing Mr. Pietro Nenni;
Mr. Emmanuel d'ASTIER de la VIGERIE, deputy in the French National Assembly;
Mr. Pierre COT, deputy in the French National Assembly;
Mr. Louis VIENNEY, deputy mayor of Lyons (France).

On October 27 the following supplementary statement was issued in Paris:

Following the meeting of personalities from various countries of East and West held in Lyons Town Hall on Tuesday, October 25, with Mr. Edouard Herriot, Honorary President of the National Assembly, in the chair, an exchange of views took place in Paris between French parliamentarians and the foreign guests invited to Lyons.

After this exchange of views, the following parliamentarians decided to join the signatories of the text adopted at Lyons: Mr. Alfred JULES-JULIEN, Mr. Jean MASSON, Mr. Vincent de MORO-GIAFFERI, Mr. Louis VALLON, Mr. Andre DENIS, Mr. Gilbert de CHAMBRUN, Mr. Laurent CASANOVA, Mr. Michel Maurice BOKANOVSKI, Mr. Albert FORCINAL — all Deputies; and Mr. Leo HAMON and Mr. Jacques DEBU-BRIDEL — Senators.

---

(1) These parliamentarians belong to different groups in the National Assembly: the Radical Party, the Young Republic, Communist, Progressive and Gaullist groups. Mr. Jules-Julien is Vice-president of the National Assembly.

32.26.62

The Peoples Demand New Steps towards Co-operation and Relaxation of Tension

"The peoples will not tolerate a return to the Cold War. They demand further steps towards international co-operation. They demand the abandonment of the policy of military blocs. They want the work of negotiation which has started to be extended to all parts of the earth still subject to the policy of coercion and Cold War.

"The World Council of Peace calls on every man and woman, every people, to act to make the Geneva spirit prevail in all countries and on all continents."

THE BUREAU OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE
Vienna, 13th October, 1955

32.26.62

Lobby Day in Great Britain

British Members of Parliament were left in no doubt on October 25 of the desire of the public for continuation and extension of the spirit of Geneva, when thousands of their constituents came to see them at the House of Commons on the day Parliament re-opened. In our picture shop stewards from the Rover Motor Works in Birmingham talk with Mr. Julius Silverman, Labour Member of Parliament for the Erdington Division of Birmingham, outside the House of Commons.

Indian People's Message

The All India Conference for Asian Solidarity held in Hyderabad on October 25 sent a letter to the four Foreign Ministers giving the Indian people's point of view on international problems. The Conference was an important demonstration of Indian public opinion and was enthusiastically welcomed by the people.

Below, the people of Hyderabad greet the opening of the Conference.

German Delegations in Geneva

Since the opening of the Geneva Conference one deputation after another from the German Federal Republic has been approaching the four Foreign Ministers to acquaint them with the point of view of the peace forces in West Germany. The West German Peace Committee expresses this point of view in these terms:

"Germany must also be represented at Geneva. The Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic have already declared their agreement with the participation of the governments of both parts of Germany in the Geneva Conference. In the interest of reunification the Western Powers and the German Federal Republic must also agree to this."

At the same time delegations from both the German Federal Republic and the German Democratic Republic emphasised that the establishment of collective security in Europe would create favourable conditions for reunification.

In our picture: a women's deputation from the Ruhr speaking with representatives of the Soviet delegation to whom they delivered a letter signed by 700 people.

Radio Broadcasts in Puerto Rico

In several radio programmes broadcast prior to the Geneva Conference the Puerto Rican Peace Council expressed the desire of the people of the island to see further development of the Geneva spirit. The Appeal to Public Opinion issued by the Bureau of the World Council of Peace was broadcast on October 22.

Fortnight of Brazilian Activity

In a message to the Foreign Ministers' Conference the Brazilian Peace Movement spoke for the Brazilian people who "in accord with world opinion hope that this Conference will bring results as good as those of the Conference of Heads of Government." Many similar messages were sent to Geneva during the Fortnight of Activity and the National Days of October 25 and 26 organised by the Brazilian Movement.

Syrian and Lebanese Press Feature Appeal to Public Opinion

In the Near and Middle East the Appeal to Public Opinion issued by the Bureau of the World Council on October 13 has stimulated activity in connection with the Foreign Ministers' Conference. Newspapers of various points of view have published it, as illustrated below in press cuttings from the Syrian and Lebanese papers Al Sarkha, Al Nur, Al Manar, Al Faiha, Lissan El Shaab, and Al Akhbar.

People's Assemblies in France

At the present time hundreds of people's assemblies are being held in France in factories, workshops, offices, on building sites, in towns and villages. They are the characteristic form of activity being carried ont by the peace forces throughout the country and are provoking wide discussion, thus informing the people and enabling them to express their point of view clearly, whether in letters to the French Government and the four Foreign Ministers or by deputations elected by the meetings to go to Geneva. In our picture below eight women at a such a small meeting are signing a letter to the Foreign Ministers giving their particular reasons for wanting the Geneva spirit to prevail.

Statement by the Japanese Peace Committee

Meeting on October 17, the Executive Committee of the Japanese Peace Committee decided to support the Appeal of the Bureau of the World Council of Peace and to mobilize Japanese public opinion for the success of the Foreign Ministers' Conference. The Committee stressed that the Japanese people's demands, such as the banning of A and H bombs, no rearmament, the restoration of normal relations with China and the Soviet Union, etc., were closely related to the items on the agenda of the Conference, and that its outcome would have a great effect on the future of the Japanese people.

Parliamentarians, People's Assemblies and Organisations Press French Government to Favour Conciliation

"AT the Geneva Conference the French Government must adopt an attitude in favour of conciliation which will enable world politics to free itself completely from the methods and threats of the cold war."

This is the conclusion of a statement published on October 25 by the French Committee for the Peaceful Solution of the German Problem, following a meeting attended by parliamentarians of such different political outlook as Mr. Pierre Lebon, Mr. Leo Hamon, Mr. Louis Vallon and Mr. Gilbert de Chambrun, and many other personalities.

The French people's determination to prevent any return to the cold war policy is increasingly to be seen in almost all sections of the population. This feeling is shared by the man in the street and the most eminent individuals alike, as well as by members of Parliament and major national organisations.

As is known (see page two), the Lyons Statement made by personalities from East and West was signed by such well-known French statesmen as Mr. Edouard Herriot, Honorary President of the French National Assembly; Mr. Alfred Jules-Julien, Vice-President of the Assembly; Mr. Jean Masson, Deputy and former minister; Mr. de Moro-Giafferi, Deputy. Other politicians put their namens to a resolution of the Executive of the National Association of Former French Resistance Fighters calling on the French Government "to support positions compatible with the country's security and independence and the building of peace." Among the signatories were Mr. Debu-Bridel, Senator; Mr. Robert Pimienta, former delegate to the Consultative Assembly; and Mr. Jean Auburtin, Paris city councillor.

Major organisations have expressed similar points of view: the National Association of Republican Elected Representatives; the Franco-Polish Friendship Society and the Secretariat of the Metal Workers' Federation. In the same spirit the National Peasant Committee for Peace is asking its Departmentsal committees to encourage peasants to express their opinion through letters, petitions and deputations.

Such activities are going on throughout the country in response to the call of the National Council of the Peace Movement. Regional rallies, conferences and public meetings of all kinds, in one way or another enable thorough discussions to be held to find the basis for agreement, to stimulate new activities, new appreaches to deputies and councillors and the government and to create new centres of peace activity. The National Council of the French Movement is helping this activity with the publication of a series of folders on disarmament, the problem of security and the question of Viet Nam, and a popular leaflet entitled "What is the Peace Movement?" In addition, Departmental committees are publishing bulletins and broadsheets.

As part of the campaign a rally was held in Montchanin-les-Mines (Loire) on October 30 with the Mayor, who is also a member of the Department Council, in the chair. In preparation for the rally 5,000 invitation letters and cards were distributed, together with 40,000 copies of an appeal signed by a hundred personalities, including several mayors and socialist Departmental councillors, and calling on the people to rally in support of the Geneva negotiations. Speakers included Mr. Alain le Léap, of the Presiding Committee of the French Peace Movement, and Mr. Ludwig de Pellegrini of the German Peace Movement. The 600 people who took part elected a deputation to go to Geneva.

Other rallies are taking place in the Lot-et-Garonne, Dordogne, Corsica, Aube, Cher, Charente-Maritime, Seine-Maritime and Aisne Departments.

Elsewhere on this page we report on successful people's assemblies held recently.

"While eating hot chestnuts . . ." — a letter from Marseilles

More and more people's assemblies are being held in towns and villages all over France.

A letter receive from an active woman member of the Peace Movement in the Bouches-du-Rhône Department gives a lively account of some of them. She writes:

"On Thursday, (October 20) alone, there were ten meetings: six in different parts of Marseilles, two at Port-de-Bouc and Fuveau and two factory meetings.

"What is striking about these little assemblies is that no two of them are the same. The audiences vary in size (5, 8, 12, 15 or 20 people); they are planned and run in different ways and vary in their conclusions.

"At Vauban, for example, the members of the Peace Committee went from door to door one Sunday morning to invite the people of the neighbourhood to meet in the house of a disabled Resistance fighter. The result was excellent, everyone who promised to come being present. There was a lively discussion on all problems: disarmament, the German question and security, North Africa. A letter was sent to the Prime Minister.

"In the factories there have been canteen meetings in some cases and in others departmental or shop assemblies as at the Rivoli power station of the French Electricity Corporation and as planned at the Rocca and Agricola soap works.

"At Sainte-Marguerite, housewives met during the afternoon (the quietest part of their day), and, while keeping an eye on their children, decided to take joint action regarding the Geneva Conference. In another place a *châtaignée* is planned, i. e. a gathering at which boiled chestnuts are served with white wine; and those present will discuss how they can help make a success of the negotiations and ensure that the four great powers reach real agreement on disarmement.

"In the communes of Gréasque, Fuveau and Bouc-Bel-Air, socialists, communists and independents (including many elected representatives), schoolteachers and other individuals, joined together to sponsor meetings in the Town Hall with the Mayor taking the chair in all three cases. (Two of the mayors are socialists and the other an independent.) A Secretary of the Peace Movement was also present at the meetings which all unanimously decided to set up local peace councils, send a letter to the government and hold a public meeting to elect deputations to go to Geneva.

"The holding of small public meetings is an activity very well received here. Almost everyone, whether manual worker, office worker, teacher, doctor or housewife can invite a few neighbours to his house or get together with his workmates in the factory or in a café at a time to suit them all.

"Everyone expresses his point of view freely in an atmosphere of mutual trust; in most cases there is no fixed agenda. The discussion takes in a whole range of problems concerning peace, and often the nature of the Peace Movement and its relations with the World Council.

"Several of those attending for the first time gained confidence from the frank and cordial atmosphere of the meetings, and undertook to organise similar meetings in their own homes and to invite relatives and friends."

Sweden

"In the spirit of the United Nations"

There has been an increase of peace activity in Sweden in connection with the Geneva Conference. Meetings have been held in many localities, and telegrams and declarations sent to Geneva asking the Foreign Ministers not to break up before they have reached firm agreement, particularly on the question of disarmament which has aroused great interest in Sweden both in Parliament and among the people.

On the tenth anniversary of the United Nations the Swedish Peace Committee issued a statement on the lines of the activity to be conducted, which said:

"It is in conformity with the spirit and aims of the United Nations to demand that the Geneva spirit be promoted at the forthcoming Foreign Ministers' meeting in Geneva by finding concrete solutions for general disarmament, the banning of atomic weapons, the creation of a European system of security and more friendly relations between East and West."

The Committee endorsed the request made in the General Assembly of the United Nations by the Swedish Foreign Minister, Mr. Unden, that the plans so far presented on disarmament be published. This proposal meets the desires of public opinion which plays an important role in obtaining positive results.

"Let us express this opinion in favour of peace," the statement concludes, "through meetings, messages to the Foreign Ministers in Geneva, and a general intensification of work for peace in co-operation with all people of goodwill."

ALL GERMANY SENDS MESSAGES, DEPUTATIONS TO GENEVA

THE opening of the Geneva Conference has intensified and extended the lively activity carried on in Germany in the preceding weeks. In the Federal Republic the determination of the German people to make an effective contribution to further relaxation of international tension has been shown in action. Many messages have been sent to the four Ministers and deputations elected to go to Geneva from meetings of organisations public personalities to convey the point of view of large sections of German public opinion on the problems being discussed at the Conference, especially collective security and reunification of Germany.

Meetings have been held in Duisburg, Hamburg, Kiel, Bremen, Munich and other towns.

A typical example of the form taken by many of these meetings is the activity undertaken in Duisburg by a small group of friends of peace. In the middle of September a meeting was held in Herne (Westphalia), of people representing all sections of the population to find new ways to advance German reunification.

The meeting, which was an undoubted success, was not limited to discussion but took action to call on the governments of the two German states to negotiate with a view to presenting the point of view of Germany at Geneva. Approaches to individuals in the German Democratic Republic were also studied, and a committee elected to deal with organisational questions. It was also decided to hold a further meeting in Duisburg on October 16 to elect a representative deputation to go to Geneva.

The Duisburg meeting was a great success. A statement was adopted and sent to the four Foreign Ministers, which said that "the responsibility for German reunification — following the signing of the London and Paris Agreements and the two Moscow conferences held in September 1955 with the German Federal Republic and the German Democratic Republic — clearly rests on the two German states," and called on their representatives to work out a joint statement of all-German opinion to be submitted to the Foreign Ministers' Conference.

Finally, a deputation was elected to go to Geneva, its expenses paid by donations.

In the same spirit the Franconia Circle, an organisation with a membership of around 6000 intellectuals, actors, scientists and members of the teaching profession, sent a message to the four Foreign Ministers and the governments of the two German states, a message which made a strong impression on public opinion:

"We consider it the national duty of the two German Governments and Parliaments to begin joint consultations to work out proposals for submission to the Geneva Conference. We expect the Chancellor and the Federal Government to give up their intransigent attitude towards the German Democratic Republic and to put an end to the cold war within Germany."

In addition to these moves there is intensive activity by the big peace organisations. The West German Peace Committee and its provincial organisations have held meetings leading to various activities, especially the sending of letters to M.P.s and the Bonn and Berlin Governments. The German Section of the War Resisters' International has also been very active.

The West German Women' Peace Movement has sent a deputation to Geneva in the organisation of which Mrs. Fassbinder of Bonn took a leading part. In a letter to the four Foreign Ministers, the Women's Movements points out that the creation of a European security system would be an extremely important contribution to peace and German reunification. The letter calls on the Four Ministers to allow German representatives to take part in the discussions.

For Contact between the Two German States

Many contacts have been established between workers of the German Federal Republic and the German Democratic Republic. In Mannheim-Ludwigshaven, for example, in the Federal Republic, tramwaymen organised a joint delegation with their opposite numbers in Dresden. In Dresden there was also a meeting in mid-October of workers of the camera factory with representatives of two Brunswick factories. Those taking part adopted a joint statement which was sent to the two German governments, and which called on the Federal Government to make contact with the Government of the Democratic Republic with a view to sending a deputation to Geneva representative of all Germany.

A similar point of view was expressed on October 16 by the German Youth Forum which brought together 450 members of youth organisations in all parts of Germany for a conference in Berlin. They called for the point of view of the German people to be heard at Geneva and for everything to be done to prepare the way for German unity through a system of collective security.

Deputations to Geneva

Many delegations have gone to Geneva from all parts of German with these questions in mind.

In Duisburg a workers' conference attended by people of all opinions elected a deputation to accompany a delegation of workers from the German Democratic Republic. (Further examples of such delegations will be found on pages 8 and 9 of this issue.)

All these deputations, made up of people of the most varied social background and representing different political outlooks, have been interviewing the observers sent to Geneva by the governments of the two parts of Germany and asking them to meet together and work out a joint point of view for all Germany. In addition they have been asking the four Foreign Ministers to allow the representatives of the two German states to take part in the discussions on Germany.

Statement by West German Peace Committee

In connection with the Foreign Ministers' Conference, the Executive of the West German Peace Committee issued a statement which said in part:

"International agreements on disarmament and security for all countries would at the same time be of great help to the German people in working for the peaceful reunification of their country.

"But reunification is only possible if the implementation of the Paris Agreements and the creation of armed forces are stopped. European disarmament cannot be begun through German rearmament...

"The negotiations on the German problem at Geneva must not take place without German representatives. In all discussions on the German problem and Germany's future, representatives of the German Federal Republic and the German Democratic Republic must be able to put their point of view and make proposals to the Foreign Ministers...

"We greet and encourage all efforts towards co-operation between organisations and institutions in the two German states. We want close contacts between the Germans of East and West so that they can seek in all fields of political, economic and cultural life the things that unite us as Germans irrespective of zones..."

German Peace Council Meets in Berlin

During the recent plenary session of the German Peace Council, held in Berlin, the Vice-Premier of the German Democratic Republic, Dr. Otto Nuschke, stressed the importance of the treaty concluded between the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic.

"I hope," he said, "and in so doing I express my supreme faith in the final victory of peace — that the Paris Agreements will one day be thrown into the wastepaper basket of world history and that we will then achieve German unity and join a European collective security pact... I believe that our Peace Movement has a rewarding task. It can consider with satisfaction the progress made in easing the international situation and convincing the people that the method of negotiations and agreement is the right way to preserve peace."

Iowa farmers and Illinois trade unionists favour negotiation and co-existence

The 73rd annual convention of the Illinois Federation of Labour, attended by 1.700 delegates, voted, on October 14, to urge continued negotiations "on every possible level... in order to resolve the conflicts between east and west."

The convention urged all local unions to "concern themselves with the great issue of peace," and further resolved that the Illinois Federation should urge that "labour-backed candidates for office become the best exponents of a genuine policy of peace in order to bring about the political defeat of those now in Congress and the Administration who oppose continuous negotiations to ease world tensions."

The annual congress of the Iowa Farmers' Union, held recently in Des Moines, passed a resolution urging that the United States work for peaceful co-existence with peoples of different economic and social systems. The resolution also stressed the possibility of international agreement on disarmament and the banning of atom and hydrogen bombs and other weapons of mass destruction, with an international system of control and inspection under the United Nations.

The American People Want Peace

Our picture reproduces the cover of an extremely valuable and encouraging pamphlet that has just been received from the United States. Written by Jessica Smith, editor of the magazine New World Review, and entitled THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT PEACE, the pamphlet summarises the activity of American public opinion since the January crisis over Quemoy, and the role it played in bringing about the Geneva meeting of Heads of Government and the development of the Geneva spirit. It gives a wealth of detail of the activities of a great number of organisations in the United States which have contributed to the cause of peace, and presents the main issues on which Americans have gone into action — atomic and thermonuclear weapons and disarmament, tension over Quemoy and Matsu, negotiations and co-existence with Russia, China and other nations, and universal military training.

"Everywhere that there is peace activity," says the pamphlet, "the simple, ordinary, wonderful American people will be found... Their work for peace, in its manifold expressions, has already had its effect in stopping the wars in being, in averting a new war crisis, in opening the way for a new period of negotiations and lighting a great hope in the hearts of all people of goodwill... The decision for peace rests with the people. It is in their hands to make sure that the bright promise of Geneva is fulfilled, and that a new, warless world is born."

Vancouver Marine Workers Urge Peaceful Settlement of World Problems

THE regular membership meeting of the Marine Workers and Boilermakers Industrial Union, Local No. 1, of Vancouver, British Columbia, on October 17, sent the following message to the Foreign Ministers in Geneva:

"The members of our organisation, encouraged by the success of the Geneva Conference of the Big Four and the more recent visit of our own Minister of External Affairs, Lester B. Pearson (to the U.S.S.R.), are hoping and praying for the same spirit of co-operation at the meeting of the Big Four Foreign Ministers. We urge you to come to an amicable settlement on the momentous problems that face us."

"Writing Bees" (1) have been organised by peace supporters in Vancouver, in order to send the greatest possible number of messages to the Foreign Ministers' Conference.

---

(1) A "bee" is a "meeting for combined work or amusement" (Concise Oxford Dictionary) — in this case a gathering to write letters to Geneva.

Helsinki Observers Support Canadian Forum on Peace

Three Canadian observers to the World Assembly for Peace issued a call to Christians to support the Canadian Forum on Peace held in Toronto on November 5 and 6. They were the Rev. D. C. Candy and the Rev. I. G. Perkins, of Toronto, and Mrs. Mildred McLeod of Nanaimo, British Columbia.

On the basis of their experience at Helsinki they recommended participation in the Canadian Forum. At Helsinki, they said, "we found that we could say and think what we liked." "The road to disarmament, and particularly the abolition of atomic power as a weapon of war, is hindered by one major obstacle — the lack of mutual trust," they say. "This is recognised on the higher levels and many interchanges of personnel have taken place. We believe it is important on a general public level... It does not make you a Christian to talk with a Christian, a communist to talk with a communist or an Indian to talk with an Indian but the results of such conversations can lead to understanding and tolerance which will inevitably make a major contribution to mutual trust and therein to World Peace... One of the observations of the conference at Helsinki that gave us good heart was the participation of Christian leaders from both East and West, and the opportunity given to voice the peculiar Christian gospel. At the Conference on November 5 we should take still greater advantage of this opportunity."

In a message to the Forum, the Minister of Health of Saskatchewan, the Hon. T. J. Bentley, writes that the Canadian Forum on Peace, "or any other group which is making an effort to achieve and maintain peaceful conditions throughout the world and which is succesfully making progress toward that end, deserves the goodwill and commendation of everybody."

The Forum opened on November 5 with a symposium of speakers, representing the views of important sections of Canadian opinion. The symposium was followed by general discussion. Commissions were elected to study (1) atomic and general disarmament; (2) Germany and European security; (3) Asian questions; (4) East-West contacts, trade and cultural exchanges, and (5) education and youth. On November 6 a public meeting was held in Massey Hall, Toronto, under the auspices of the Canadian Peace Congress and the Toronto Peace Council.

Netherlands Peace Council: *"European security is linked with peaceful solution of the German problem"*

In a letter to the Foreign Ministers in Geneva, the Dutch Peace Council writes: "On the occasion of the Foreign Ministers' Conference the Dutch people have great hopes which were expressed by Her Majesty, the Queen of the Netherlands, in her speech from the throne on September 20 last. Speaking of the first conference held by your Governments in Geneva this year, Her Majesty said:

"'I wish to express here the Dutch people's fervent and deep desire that, in spite of the difficulties and obstacles which will doubtless arise, these negotiations may attain good results.'"

"In the view of the Dutch people," the letter goes on, "the creation of a situation of security in Europe is intimately and indissolubly linked with the peaceful settlement of the German question so that Prussian militarism may never again be a threat to Germany's neighbours.

"As for the problem of disarmament, we place our hope in the resolution unanimously adopted on November 4, 1954, by the United Nations General Assembly, which shows that at the present time there are no vital differences between the Great Powers on this subject."

How the People of Brazil Contributed to Development of the "Geneva Spirit"

An interview with Mr. Jose da Frota Moreira,
General Secretary of the Brazilian Peace Movement

WHEN Mr. Jose da Frota Moreira, General Secretary of the Brazilian Peace Movement, and member of the Bureau of the World Council of Peace, was in Vienna on the eve of the Four Foreign Ministers' Conference, we asked him to give us an account of the most recent experiences of the Brazilian Peace Movement, particularly of the contribution of the Brazilian people to promoting the Geneva spirit. (Mr. da Frota Moreira is also a member of the Brazilian Parliament and General Secretary of the Brazilian Labour Party.)

On the eve of the Foreign Ministers' Conference, said Mr. Moreira, the Brazilian Peace Movement held a special action fortnight during which the Brazilian people were able directly to express to the negotiators their desire to see the Geneva spirit prevail. Public meetings were held throughout the country on October 25 and 28 to round off the fortnight's campaign. During these two weeks the Movement worked intensively, and naturally these efforts are being continued during the Conference and will go on after it.

It is precisely on this question of widening our commercial and diplomatic relations that new circles have joined in the Movement's activity or taken independant action to the same end, Mr. Moreira replied. These are industrial, commercial and agricultural circles, mainly groups linked with the production of coffee, cocoa, cotton, sugar, fibres and vegetable oils, all of which need markets.

The campaign for the reopening of these markets has been one of the themes of the Movement for two years. But in the recent period it has become, and more and more will continue to be, one of its main activities.

Question — We have had news about the organisational developments of the Brazilian Movement. Could you tell us how new peace committees are formed, so that the other national movements may share this experience?

It is true, as the last few issues of the Bulletin have stated, that the progress of the Brazilian Peace Movement has been reflected in the setting up of new peace committees, said Mr. Moreira.

These successes in the organisational sphere are due to the fact that in the recent period the Movement has been better able to show the importance of consolidating the *détente* and world peace for reaching a successful solution of pressing national problems.

For example, implementation of the Soviet disarmament plan being discussed by the Sub-committee of the United Nations Disarmament Commission would result in a reduction of 100,000 men in the Brazilian armed forces. This would considerably lighten the heavy military expenditure which is burdening the economy. The military budget for the forthcoming financial year shows a jump of 70 per cent over the previous one. The Movement is of course campaigning for its reduction, urging the use of the sums thus liberated for the construction of schools or the improvement of the public health services. These are arguments to which the people are very sensitive.

Question — The Brazilian Peace Movement organised meetings on Constitution Day on September 18. What was their special significance?

The Brazilian Constitution proclaims that Brazil will not launch any war of aggression and that, should differences arise with other states, it will have recourse to negotiation and arbitration without fail.

The observance of September 18 had the aim of enabling the Brazilian people to express their loyality to these eminently correct principles and their determination to see them not only respected, but also implemented by the Government in its foreign policy and in the great international assemblies in which Brazil has a seat.

On the tenth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations the Brazilian Senate unanimously adopted an address on peace to the United Nations presented by its Foreign Affairs Commission. In putting forward the motion on behalf of the Commission, Senator Carlos Lindemberg suggested a number of measures that the United Nations could advocate, including:

— the strengthening of friendly relations among all countries on a footing of equal rights;

— the peaceful settlement of all international differences through negotiation, mediation, conciliation or judicial arbitration;

— international control of armaments with a view to general disarmament and the abolition of all weapons of mass destruction such as the atomic and hydrogen bombs.

Senator Vivaldo Lima, president of the Brazilian Red Cross, associated himself with this statement.

The Brazilian people gave clear expression to their peaceful aspirations during the Presidential election campaign. Two of the candidates — one of whom was subsequently elected President — presented programmes which, in relation to peace questions, were substantially the same as that of the Peace Movement.

The most extensive activities, however, were those for the normalisation of diplomatic and commercial relations undertaken by the sections of opinion concerned with these questions. It is very difficult in Europe to understand the vital importance of this question for the countries of Latin America, most of which do not have diplomatic relations with the countries of Eastern Europe or with China, far less commercial relations. Latin America, subjected by the cold war to the law of the single market and to the restrictions of the Battle Act, is being strangled by lack of markets.

Question — Have there, during this period, been new facts illustrating a wider unity of the forces for peace?

Peace Activities in Brazil

The fortnight October 9—24 was observed as a special Action Fortnight at the call of the Brazilian Peace Movement, the aim being to make the four Foreign Ministers aware of the Brazilian people's determination to see a further development of the *détente*.

The fortnight culminated on the 25th and 26th with public meetings which sent messages to the Foreign Ministers' Conference. The most important of these meetings, in which many public figures took part, were those held in Sao Paulo and in the auditorium of the Brazilian Press Association in Rio de Janeiro.

Various events were held in Rio, Bahia, the important Mooca and Ipiranga districts of Sao Paulo, at Sorocaba and in a number of localities in the States of Minas Gerais, Ceara and Rio Grande do Sul.

The following activities, though in some cases previous to the fortnight itself, give an idea of certain forms of action used by the Brazilian Peace Movement.

* * *

At a general assembly of the Rio de Janeiro members of the Cabinetmakers' Union, one of the union's leaders made a speech showing that defence of the union's interests is closely linked up with the maintenance and consolidation of peace. Those present stated their readiness to join in any action along those lines.

* * *

In September, when the signature campaign against atomic war was at its height, a sailor on the *S.S. Capela* undertook to explain the aims of the Peace Movement to the passengers on board. In particular, he recalled that during the last war many Brazilian merchant ships were sunk in Brazilian waters even when they were unarmed and engaged in trade or in transporting passengers and emigrants from Northern to Southern Brazil. By the end of the voyage he had collected more than 700 signatures.

* * *

When Sao Paulo municipal workers were queuing up for their pay, one of them addressed his fellows and explained the policy of the Peace Movement. The more than 400 workers present went on record against the preparation of atomic war and for a further relaxation of tension.

* * *

At Salvador, capital of the State of Bahia, there was a meeting of 30 ministers in the First Baptist Church at which Rev. Edualdo da Silva Lima gave a report on the work and results of the World Assembly in Helsinki in which he took part as a member of the Brazilian delegation. The idea of a round table conference of representatives of the various religions practised in Brazil to discuss the problems of world peace was launched.

* * *

In Rio de Janeiro a group of women went to a seamen's meeting where they asked those present to join the struggle for peace. The seamen gave their unanimous support to activity to promote a further relaxation of tension.

GENEVA during the c

A delegation of French trade unionists gets ready to entrain for Geneva.

In the days before the Conference, and since it opened, thousands of letters have poured in from every part of the world to the four Foreign Ministers. Some express the views of hundreds of meetings and assemblies held in various countries; some are from the organisations of workers, office workers, intellectuals, students and housewives, while others come from elected bodies, particularly from town councils.

Many of the letters are signed by dozens and even hundreds of people; and in many cases they express a determination to safeguard and consolidate peace, a determination shared by hundreds of thousands of men and women of different nationality, religion and profession and belonging to a wide range of parties and organisations. They all wish the Conference success in its work.

There are many messages from the German Federal Republic and from the German Democratic Republic. Gatherings of workers and office-workers, parents and individuals, deeply anxious for their country's future, remind the Foreign Ministers of the terrible misfortune and bereavement that German militarism has twice brought down upon them. They write that the German people have learned the lessons of the past and ask the Foreign Ministers to conclude a pact which, by guaranteeing security throughout the world, would lay the basis for the peaceful and democratic reunification of Germany. A number of messages ask that the views of the German people's representatives should be heard during the examination of the German question.

Very many letters come from German mothers and fathers and from meetings of parents who ask that peaceful and secure conditions be established for their children's education to ensure that they have a happy future. These parents ask that schools and nurseries be built instead of guns, tanks and planes.

There are also thousands of letters from peace workers and their organisations in Italy, Canada, Latin America, the United States, Great Britain, France, Tunisia, Hungary, Austria and other countries, asking for agreement on the banning of atomic weapons, general disarmament, the dissolution of military blocs and the creation of a system of collective security. The writers point out that in these last months the peoples' will to peace has led to an easing of international tension and express the hope that the Foreign Ministers' Conference will make every effort to ease this tension still more.

Best wishes of 18 million ex-servicemen

The World Federation of Ex-servicemen announces that its Executive Bureau, meeting in Paris on October 27, sent best wishes for the success of their Conference to the Foreign Ministers meeting that same day in Geneva, on behalf 18 million ex-servicemen and war victims. It considered that this meeting should help put into practice the spirit of peace shown by the Conference of Heads of Government of which it is the result.

Using the terms of a resolution of the Fifth General Assembly of the Federation, the Executive Bureau recalled that the easing of international tension has improved the possibilities of peaceful co-operation between peoples on the basis of independence, equality and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. It pointed out, too, that co-existence of this type should be progressively transformed into more extensive co-operation in the political, economic and cultural fields, and that such co-operation would help to strengthen peace and promote the unification of certain parts of Europe and the world.

President of the World Federation of Ex-Servicemen is Mr. Vincent Auriol, former President of the French Republic.

85 million workers

The World Federation of Trade Unions, representing 85 million workers, sent an individual letter to the Foreign Ministers of the United States, France, Great Britain and the Soviet Union meeting at Geneva.

"We wish to inform you," says the letter, "of the great effect on workers, in all countries, of the Conference of the Four Heads of Government held last July, which marked a great victory for the spirit of negotiation."

Today, workers are convinced that "the strengthening of confidence and the ending of the policy of blocs must create conditions favourable to the settlement of international differences."

In all countries the working class deeply desires peace, for "war always falls most savagely on the workers, destroying the factories where they work and the towns in which they and their families live. International tension and the arms race to which it leads have already greatly depressed their living standards and working conditions."

Therefore, "all workers want a considerable reduction of armaments and to banish the horrible threat of atomic war from their homes."

They also ask for "improved contacts between East and West in all spheres and hope that the development of international trade union relations will not be hampered by any government bans."

In agreement with the All Europe Conference of Workers and Trade Unions held in Leipzig last April, the W.F.T.U. considers that "the Paris Agreements are an obstacle to German reunification." On the other hand, "the establishment of a system of collective security in Europe can and must enable this question to be settled peacefully."

Finally, "they greatly desire further successes in negotiation and will give them their full support, for this would make possible guarantees of security and a better life."

As soon as the Conference opened on October 2 French women from the Herault Department, and works. From then on the number of delegations mention them all, but the following show the broa

★

"We expect you to succeed"

The All India Conference for Asian Solidarity sent the following Appeal to the Foreign Ministers:

The All-India Conference for Asian Solidarity greets you on the occasion of your Conference, which opens at Geneva on October 27, 1955.

You are meeting to find a satisfactory solution of the most vital problems that affect all mankind.

The hopes of all the peoples of the world are focussed on your momentous meeting.

Three months ago the agreement arrived at at the meeting of the Heads of Government of the Four Great Powers at Geneva generated a wave of new hope and enthusiasm.

The Conference of Scientists for the peaceful uses of atomic energy in August last opened a new perspective for the building up of the whole of humanity on a level of unprecedented wealth and prosperity.

A number of initiatives have since been taken which have contributed to the progressive lessening of international tension: such as the opening of negotiations at an ambassadorial level and preliminary agreements between the U.S.A. and the People's Republic of China, the exchange of letters between Marshal Bulganin and Mr. Eisenhower, the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and the German Federal Republic, the improvement of relations between the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, the announcement regarding the reduction of armed forces by the Soviet Union, Great Britain and other countries, the voluntary surrender by the Soviet Union of its military base in Finland.

Your Conference, which opens at this important juncture, can be a turning-point in history if it comes to an agreement to end the armaments race and to ban all weapons of mass destruction.

May we draw your attention to the declared stand of the Asian and African peoples on this great issue before you? At Bandung, 29 Asian and African nations declared:

"Disarmament and prohibition of production, experimentation and use of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons are imperative to save mankind and civilisation from the fear and prospect of wholesale destruction."

conference

October 27 the first delegations began to arrive — ent, and workers from the huge Renault motor gations increased. Space does not permit us to the broad popular basis of the activity.

There were German women from Hamburg, bringing with them a letter signed by 1,080 women demanding collective security and the peaceful settlement of the German question. Another women's delegation from Schleswig-Holstein had come to make the same demand. Women from the Ruhr, elected in Duisburg on October 21 at a report-back meeting on the World Congress of Mothers, brought 610 signatures.

An important delegation from the German Women's Peace Movement, led by Mrs. Fassbinder and Mrs. Griesemann (General Secretary of the World Congress of Mothers in Lausanne), handed the Foreign Ministers and the observers from the two German Governments a resolution suggesting the formation of two Commissions, one for collective security and the other for German unity, and asking that representatives of the two German states sit in the latter. This delegation included two women from Holstein, one from Bremen, one from Lower Saxony, five from Westphalia, one from Baden-Wurttemberg, one from Bavaria and three from Essen. A delegation from the German Women's Democratic Federation, composed of 22 women from Westphalia, Essen, Baden Wurttemberg and Bavaria, brought hundreds of signatures to the Conference, while a delegation of eight women from Bavaria came by bus to hand petitions to the Foreign Ministers.

There was also a delegation from the Swiss Women's Federation for Peace and Progress.

Two French women representing two wards of the city of Tours handed the Foreign Ministers petitions bearing 517 signatures and asking them to "make every effort to bring about general disarmament." while women from Saint-Genis Laval brought 295 signatures. French worker's delegations included bus and trolley men from Toulon, railwaymen from Vaires, and representatives from the Calor factory, Garnier Meters and a cable works in Lyons.

Inhabitants of the Montchat district of Lyons sent a delegation, as did those of Rives-de-Giers, Grand-Croix, Lorette (Loire Department) and Saint-Genis Laval, where 109 signatures were collected in an hour. There were also representatives from the French Federation of Deportees and the National Association of Former Resistance Fighters.

German railwaymen from Hamburg, representing 20,000 fellow workers, also came to Geneva, while steel workers from the Saar, and workers from the factories of Duisburg, Bremen and Hamburg brought resolutions stating that the German problem can be solved through collective security. Delegations came to see the Foreign Ministers from the Mannesmann locomotive works

These women have come from Hamburg. They bring the four Foreign Ministers petitions signed by mothers.

in Duisburg; and Saar miners came to ask them to take measures for collective security in Europe, which they believe would be "a practical step towards the reunification of Germany, including the Saar." The German Anti-Saar Statute Committee also sent a deputation.

Messages were brought by delegates from the Bavarian Motor Works and the Ludwigshaven Railway Works, and tramwaymen from Ludwigshaven and Mannheim brought resolutions adopted by their fellow workers. Three delegates from the Junker and Ruh workshops in Karlsruhe brought a petition bearing 400 signatures.

The official delegation from the French Peace Movement was composed of Mrs. Yves Farge, Mr. Alain Le Leap, secretary of the General Confederation of Labour (C.G.T.), Mr. Jacques Madaule, member of the Presiding Committee of the French Peace Movement, and Dr. Weill-Halle, member of the Academy of Medecine. From Marseilles, many delegations set off for Geneva by bus: one from Beaudoin Motors, another representing the inhabitants of the Plaine district of the city, and a third from an establishment of the French Electricity Corporation. There was also a delegation of nine representing the people of Montchanin (Saone et Loire).

Why I came to Geneva

Here are some statements by members of delegations explaining their personal reasons for making the trip to Geneva.

Mrs. Ella Sommerfeld of Hamburg:

"As a rank-and-file member of the German Social Democratic Party I felt the need to show what lines of action must be taken to get results for our people."

Mrs. Frida Tubach of Hamburg, mother of an 18 year-old son and 15 year-old daughter:

"I want a security system for all the peoples of Europe, for I want to preserve my son from the horrors of a another war."

Mrs. Kriene, delegate from a Ruhr Catholic group opposed to conscription:

"My husband was wounded in the Second World War and I have four children. I don't want to go through years of war again. As a mother and Catholic, I must do something for my children."

Mrs. Tacken of Duisburg, member of the Red Cross:

"My husband has been an invalid since the First World War. I have five children, including two sons old enough to be threatened with conscription. I shall never agree to war because I have seen what happened in the past."

Mrs. Tacken hands over at the Palace of the Nations the signatures she has collected among her companions.

A delegation of women from Tours in France met a delegation of German women from Schleswig-Holstein. Here they are together examining the signatures collected on both sides of a frontier that they wish to make a frontier of friendship.

Mrs. Gunsburger, a delegate from the Women's Democratic Association in the German Federal Republic:

"German mothers and those of neighbouring countries have suffered enough from German militarism during the last fifty years. We therefore ask that the German people and their neighbours be guaranteed against militarism by a system of collective security."

Mr. Lahrs, member of the Bremen City Council:

"I have a 21-year old son and don't want him ever to be a soldier. My comrades in the Bremen docks who sent me here as a delegate think that, if collective security is achieved at Geneva, it is the best policy for reunification."

LOBBY DAY IN GREAT BRITAIN

"WE'VE got to see that this Geneva meeting makes all the difference to the future," said a young Yorkshire miner who took a letter signed by 113 of his fellow workers to his M.P. in London on National Lobby Day. He summed up the feelings of many hundred thousand people represented at this great national event, organised by the British Peace Committee on 25th October.

More people got in to see their M.P.s, more M.P.s were approached and more parts of the country were represented than in any similar action in the past. Weeks of preparatory work, detailed organisation, and the official arrangements agreed between the Peace Committee and the Commissioner of Police enabled between three and four thousand to enter the House. Thousands more, who could not arrive in time to see their M.P.s, took part in a march through Central London in the evening. The great majority of the ten thousand people involved were elected representatives of trade unions,co-operative organisations, factories, churches and other groups. At the open-air meeting at the end of the march, Mr. Gordon Schaffer, chairman of the British Peace Committee, said: "This has been a remarkable display of peaceful and orderly contact between the people and their parliamentary representatives. It has clearly shown the strength and authority of the British Peace Movement. There is no M.P. who can now be in any doubt about the feelings of the people."

The political importance of the Lobby Day was shown by the fact that reports appeared in almost every national newspaper and many provincial papers the next morning and by its inclusion in the B.B.C.'s television report on the opening of parliament.

During the preparations for Lobby Day, many delegations wrote to their M.P.s beforehand to ask for appointments, and numbers of M.P.s made special arrangements to receive groups of delegates in the House. A number of Labour M.P.s, such as Mr. Julius Silverman, Mr. S.O. Davies and Mr. Victor Collins, also came out of the House to meet delegates to take them into the Lobby. Many M.P.s, both Conservative and Labour, had long and serious discussions with delegates, and it was clear that the universal desire for the application of the spirit of Geneva is widely recognised by M.P.s. On the other hand, the fact that numbers of M.P.s suggested that the people should "leave it to the Government" and were reluctant to accept policies which could lead to a step forward or to abandon old policies which make agreement impossible, more than ever convinced delegates of the need to carry on the work. Further steps will include a campaign of deputations to M.P.s in their own constituencies and of letters and telegrams to the Government and to the Foreign Ministers at Geneva.

*

Our picture shows deputations outside the house of Commons.

Italian Peace Committee

"The foreign ministers' work must lead to agreement"

In connection with Mr. Foster Dulles' visit to Rome the Italian Peace Committee sent the following message to Mr. Segni, the Prime Minister:

"...We would ask you to convey to Mr. Foster Dulles the friendship for the American people felt by the Italians of all points of view who work for peace.

"Italian public opinion considers the Geneva Conference a decisive step towards strengthening in a lasting way the spirit of peace born of the meeting of the Four Heads of Government last July. The Foreign Ministers' work must lead to agreement. The difficulties and obstacles which will arise must be overcome — such is the desire and will of the Italian people, of all who saw in the Geneva turning-point affirmation of the *détente* and defeat of the policy of strength...

"It is only in a situation of stable and peaceful co-existence between states and peoples that Italy, bearing in mind its civilisation and its position in Europe and the Mediterranean, will be able to make its specific contribution to the settlement of international problems."

Many assemblies held in the provinces of Siena, Bologna, Ravenna, Ferrara and Florence to alert public opinion on the eve of the Geneva Conference. Letters, messages and telegrams were sent to Geneva asking for measures to promote a further easing of international tension. Letters are also being sent to the Prime Minister, Mr. Segni, and to the Foreign Minister, Mr. Martino, asking the Government to reflect the will of the Italian people and to make its contribution to the consolidation of peace by making an appropriate approach to the Foreign Ministers in Geneva.

The municipal councils of Ancona, Verona, Padua, Vicenza and other towns have sent messages of greetings to the four Foreign Ministers. Finally, many deputations have been elected to go to Geneva and make the Italian people's will to peace known to the Conference.

Italy prepares for first National Peace Congress

The announcement that a National Congress will be held on December 17 and 18 has been met with great enthusiasm in all the provinces of Italy.

The Congress is being prepared by many meetings, assemblies and local and provincial congresses attended by national leaders. Although the decision to hold it was taken only on October 18, within ten days provincial assemblies had been held in Milan, Bologna, Padua, Florence and Ancona. Everywhere preparations for the Congress are going ahead with energy, and a wide campaign to mobilise public opinion is under way. This first National Congress of the Italian Peace Movement will mark the beginning of a new stage in the struggle for peace in which the aim will be to extend the movement.

All India Conference for Asian Solidarity Makes Its Contribution to Relaxation of Tension

THE All India Conference for Asian Solidarity, held in Hyderabad on the eve of the Foreign Ministers' Conference, was an important political event both in its composition and its decisions. The Conference gave Indian public opinion an opportunity to make its point of view on international problems known to the Foreign Ministers at Geneva. 1,000 delegates, including M.P.s, writers, artists, scientists, lawyers and trade unionist took part.

The Conference opened with a public session attended by 2,000 people. Due to ill-health, Mrs. Rameshwari Nehru, President of the All India Committee for Asian Solidarity, was unable to preside at the Conference. Mr. Nausher Ali, M.P., General Secretary of the Committee took the chair. With him on the platform were Dr. S. D. Kitchlew, president of the Indian Peace Council, Shri Amar Singh Seghal, M.P., Dr. Anup Singh, M.P., Dr. C. Gidwani, M.P., Shri Ravi Narayan Reddy, M.P., Dewan Bahadur A. Iyengar, former minister of the State of Hyderabad, Dr. Bhagavantham, Vice-Chancellor of Osmania University, Hyderabad, Dr. Mulk Raj Anand, and Pandit Omkar Nath Thakur.

A Geneva-style conference for Asia

Mrs. Rameshwari Nehru's presidental address was read by Dr. Anup Singh, member of the Indian Parliament. In it Mrs. Nehru reviewed the relaxation of the international situation today. She pointed out the still outstanding issues in Asia — attempts to sabotage the cease-fire agreements in Indo-China and Korea, mounting tension in the Middle East, growing instances of colonialism and racialism in Africa, continued Portuguese occupation of Indian territories, the question of restoring Taiwan to the Chinese People's Republic, China's rightful place in the United Nations, and the restoration of the sovereign rights of Japan.

She said that a "Geneva-style conference," such as proposed by the Indian Prime Minister Nehru last July to discuss Far Eastern questions, "would go a long way towards solving the pressing problems of Asia and would put an end to foreign domination and interference in the internal affairs of Asia. Such a conference would further consolidate and extend the area of peace."

Abolish all weapons of mass destruction

The Foreign Ministers' Conference "can be a turning point in history if it comes to an agreement to end the armaments race and to ban all weapons of mass destruction," says the Address adopted by the Conference.

The Address to the four Foreign Ministers declared that "there can be no lasting world peace unless there is disarmament and a complete stoppage of all experimentation in, and production of, weapons of mass destruction."

It drew the attention of the Foreign Ministers to the stand taken by the Asian and African countries at the Bandung Conference and expressed the hope that the Ministers' decisions "will fulfil the aspirations of the millions of the world."

Several resolutions on political, economic, social, cultural and scientific questions were also adopted. The Conference further unanimously endorsed and reaffirmed all the resolutions passed at the Asian Countries' Conference in New Delhi last April.

An end to foreign intervention

A resolution "On Asian Security and Peace" condemned the activities of foreign countries that were seeking to disrupt the unity of the Asian and African peoples, in order to continue their domination. This unity was a step towards world peace, it noted.

The resolution added: "The recent developments connected with SEATO are aimed at strengthening foreign bases in Asia. The Turco-Iraqi pact has been extended to include Pakistan, Britain and Iran. Attempts to undermine the Geneva agreements in Indo-China continue. Threats are still being made to break the Korean armistice."

Characterising these moves as "calculated to flout both the will and the rights of the resurgent peoples of Asia and to minimise the historic decisions taken at the Bandung Conference," it declared that "there can be no peace in this continent unless foreign interference in Asian affairs is ended.

The resolution also demanded that China "should be given her rightful place in the United Nations immediately and attempts to divide Asian peoples and to make them fight against each other must cease forthwith."

The Conference extended full support to the proposal of Indian Prime Minister Nehru for a Geneva-type conference for the settlement of Asian questions because "such a conference of the heads of the states concerned is sure to contribute to the peace and security of Asia and the world."

Respect for human and national rights

In a resolution on colonialism, racialism and human rights, the conference severely condemned colonial rule by imperialist powers in North and East Africa, in South Africa and in the Portuguese-occupied territories of India.

Extending its full support to all peoples "who are struggling to be free," the conference called upon the peoples of Asia and the world "to put concerted pressure upon governments which practise colonialism and racial discrimination to end them, as such practices negate the fundamental human rights."

A resolution "on trade and economic questions facing Asian countries" called for the convening of an all-Asian economic conference representing all interests "to work out measures for co-operation to bring about the speedy development of the economies of Asian countries and rapid improvement in their standards of living."

The conference resolution on the status of women and the protection of children demanded equal status for women in the political, economic, legal and social spheres. It called fot the adoption of an international convention to ban child labour. It also recommended the formation of a preparatory committee to convene a conference of medical practitioners and social workers from all Asian countries to enable them to discuss the question of children's health.

For a renaissance of Asian culture

A resolution on cultural questions outlined the history of contacts between Asian and European cultures, and particularly between Asian cultures. It called for intensified activities in the sphere of cultural exchanges and the encouragement of the present renaissance of Asian culture through the promotion of the knowledge of the culture, customs and habits of Asian peoples.

The conference also adopted a resolution on scientific questions which welcomed the deliberations of the "atom for peace" conference recently held at Geneva. It appealed "to all nations concerned to issue a joint declaration that they would use atomic power exclusively for peaceful purposes."

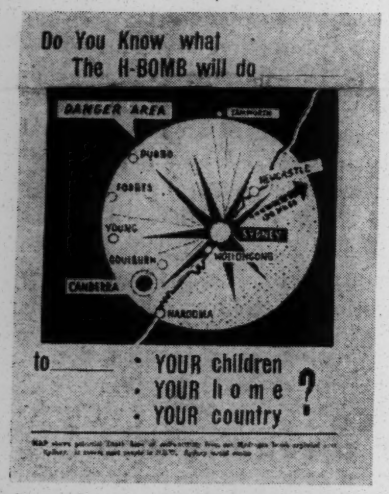
Mrs. Rameshwari Nehru was re-elected President of the All India Committee for Asian solidarity.

AUSTRALIAN ACTIVITY AGAINST ATOMIC WEAPONS

"PEACE activity is on the increase in Australia," said Mr. W. Morrow, state secretary of the New South Wales Peace Council in an interview with a representative of this Bulletin.

"It is proposed to hold an Australian National Peace Conference in the early part of 1956. In the State of Victoria, through the sponsorship of leading citizens, a Peace Assembly was held on October 28—31. In New South Wales, regional and local peace conferences are being held in different electorates to which the sitting member of the Federal House of Representatives is invited. We also propose holding a New South Wales State Peace Conference at the end of November."

The campaign against the preparation of atomic war, said Mr. Morrow, is also meeting with success in Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia.



Our picture reproduces the front page of a folder issued by the New South Wales Peace Council, which poses the potential damage a hydrogen bomb would cause in New South Wales, and calls on the people to take part in the campaign against the preparation of atomic war.

By October 5 many prominent public figures had joined the campaign, including leaders of the churches, the President of the Australian Labour Party, Senator Kennelly (former secretary of the Australian Labour Party), the New South Wales Minister for Transport, many members of the Federal and State Parliaments, Mr. R. A. King (secretary of the New South Wales Trades and Labour Council), many presidents and secretaries of trade unions, mayors and councillors.

Describing the Australian campaign for peace, Mr. Morrow said that it had been organised on an electoral basis. Support was being won in federal constituencies; and when sufficient support was obtained in a locality, deputations were organised to the member of Parliament for the constituency to press him to support the campaign and raise the question in Parliament. In this way a number of delegations would wait on each M.P.

Mr. Frank Nieass, member of the Australian delegation to the Helsinki World Assembly, had published a report on the Assembly that had been a revelation to the Australian people, Mr. Morrow said.

Many trade unionists, he continued, were being mobilised in the struggle for peace.

A feature of activity in New South Wales is the direct contact with workers made by the Peace Council. Mr. Morrow himself had recently addressed many pit-top meetings of miners, at which the miners had voted for a weekly donation to the Peace Council of threepence per member, after hearing a report on the Helsinki Assembly and the campaign against atomic war.

Demonstrations in Greece for Policy of Independence and Peace

AT a meeting held in Athens on October 9, 1955, which was attended by more than 1,000 people, politicians, scientists and others demanded that Greece withdraw from NATO.

"Recent events," says the resolution adopted, "are sufficient to convince the Greek people that these alliances (NATO and the Balkan pact — Ed.) are a grave threat to the integrity and independence of the country and to peace."

Prior to the meeting, many groupings and parties had already expressed their opinion on the problems of Greece and their effect on the maintenance of peace in the world.

The Democratic Left Union demands a policy of independence and peace. The Democratic Party wants "peaceful collaboration between nations on a footing of equality and respect for each other's national independence, sovereignty and dignity." The Liberal Democratic Union states that it is not certain that Greek participation in the Atlantic Union will guarantee the country's security and stresses that Greece must follow a "policy of equal friendship towards all countries without exception on condition that they respect its integrity and independence and refrain from interference in its internal affairs."

Today, many public figures are adding their voice to the movement for peace at present developing in Greece. Examples are Mr. Kothris, M.P., former government minister, and Mr. Argyropoulos, a former minister of Foreign Affairs, who stated at the October 9th meeting in Athens that the Greek people must avoid the tutelage of a foreign power and demand a policy of friendship based on equal rights which would guarantee their national independence.

New committees have been set up, for example the Greek Youth Committee for the Easing of International Tension, which has invited young Greeks to unite with peace-loving young people the world over to consolidate peace and friendship between the young people of all countries.

Finally, to promote the continuous growth of the forces of peace, the Athens assembly asked the Greek people, the overwhelming majority of whom are for peace and want to defend it, to unite their efforts to see that Greece "carries out a policy of friendship with all states that are ready to declare that they respect the independence and integrity of Greece."

Dr. Evatt Commends Report on Helsinki Assembly

Mr. Frank Nieass, Australian delegate to the Helsinki World Assembly for Peace, has issued a four-page, closely printed report on the Assembly which he is offering to peace organisations and trade unions at the cost price of one shilling per 10 copies.

The report carries a foreword by Dr. H. V. Evatt, leader of the Australian Labour Party, in which he says: "Whether people agree or disagree with the aims and objects of the Helsinki Peace Conference does not matter. The question is that there should be a continual free exchange of views... I congratulate you on making this report available to the Australians. Its positive approach, and fair dealing on questions that are vital to the welfare of mankind, mark it as a document that should be widely read and debated."

The report was submitted to the State Council of the Australian Government Workers' Association (of which Mr. Nieass is General Secretary). Thanking the author for his "illuminating address" the Council decided to send a copy to all members.

In the report Mr. Nieass says: "...I feel sure that ultimately it will be generally admitted that the 1955 *Helsinki Peace Assembly was the foundation upon which the people based a policy of international peace.*"

East Pakistan Moslems Oppose Military Pacts

The Council of the East Pakistan People's Moslem League has pledged its support for the basic principles adopted at the Bandung Conference, reports the United Press of India from Dacca.

Another resolution passed by the Council at its three-day session, October 21—23, said the Pakistan-U.S. military pact, the Baghdad pact and SEATO were derogatory to the sovereignty of Pakistan. It added that these pacts were likely to lead Pakistan to war and were against world peace.

The Council re-elected Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani, President of the League.

Japanese peace forces co-operate against atomic weapons and bases

An interview with Mr. Y. Hirano, General Secretary of the Japanese Peace Committee and member of the Council of Japanese Scientists.

WHILE in Vienna recently, Mr. Yoshiharo Hirano, secretary of the Japanese Peace Committee, discussed various aspects of the co-operation of the peace forces in Japan with a representative of this Bulletin. The problems of concern to the Japanese people upon which Mr. Hirano enlarged are those of atomic and hydrogen weapons, military bases, aid to the victims of atomic bombing, and rearmament. The national campaign recently launched against foreign military bases and the stocking of atomic weapons on them has put this question in the forefront.

Historical background

First of all, I would like to make a brief mention of the events that preceded the launching of the national campaign against the extension of military bases.

Last July launching ramps for atomic rockets were landed in Japan to be installed at the bases occupied by foreign armed forces and in particular at Tachikawa, on the outskirts of Sunakawa, an hour's train journey from Tokyo.

But the existing bases were found to be too small; they had not been intended for thermonuclear weapons and therefore needed to be extended by taking over cultivated land.

At Tachikawa, the measures taken to requisition land immediatety met with the anger and resistance of the people, who had already forcefully demonstrated their opposition to the preparations for atomic war.

Soon other localities, national organisations and provincial councils joined in the protests of the people of Tachikawa and the work to extend the bases was called off. But the threat remained and when it was learned that land requisitioning would be resumed in September, the Chairman of the Municipal Council, Mr. Miya Zaki, a member of the pro-government Democratic Party, issued a message calling on the people to close their ranks and oppose the plans to instal weapons for atomic war on their land.

How Sunakawa defends its future

As a result the whole Japanese people looked to Tachikawa. The three-million-strong General Council of Japanese Trade Unions (S.O.H.Y.O.) mobilised 3,000 workers in Sunakawa and Tokyo to strengthen the ranks of the people of Tachikawa. An outstanding and unusual struggle was about to develop, leading to the formation of the National Campaign Council against Military Bases. The tactics of the campaign were simply for those taking part to sit down shoulder to shoulder on their land. It is almost the "resistance without resisting" method which you will see in the film I have brought (1).

Action against the bases is of course not limited to the Sunakawa region. There are six important bases in Japan, Yokota, Niigata, Komaki, Kisarazu, Itami and Tachikawa, which have been chosen for use by A-bomb-carrying aircraft. The case of Niigata, one of the 46 Japanese prefectures, is not without interest. The base here is right in the town and the law requires the governor's consent for its extension. But the governor was obliged to heed public opinion and thus the workers in the Niigata rice-fields succeeded in averting the danger of having "Honest John" rocket installations built on their land.

It goes without saying that the Peace Movement has supported and still supports these mass actions, for they are complementary to the national and international campaign against thermonuclear weapons. At the present time, all sections of the Japanese people without exception are involved in this struggle. While still on the subject of bases, I would like to point out the serious danger to Far Eastern security of the enormous base on Okinawa, an island of 750,000 people deprived of the most elementary rights, such as to join organisations. World opinion must be alerted; since it is a threat to international security it concerns the world as a whole.

All national forces engaged in campaign

The co-operation of the peace forces is a reality in Japan. The following organisations are taking an active part in the campaigns against atomic and hydrogen weapons: the Council against A and H Bombs whose General Secretary is Professor Yasui; the National Council against Military Bases in which the General Council of Trade Unions, the Left-wing Socialist Party and the Right-wing Socialist Party, and members of the Democratic and Liberal Parties are taking part; the League for the Defence of the Peace Constitution, which is supported by the right-wing Socialists; and the National Congress for the Normalisation of Relations with China and the Soviet Union, which is supported by tradesmen, businessmen and industrialists of all political trends.

Thanks to the work of all these organisations the Peace Movement was able to collect 32 million signatures against weapons of mass destruction.

Moreover the Hiroshima Conference enabled us for the first time to win the co-operation of other important peace forces such as the Federation of Local Women's Organisations, which has three million members, and the Buddhists' national organisation.

Help for victims of atomic bombing

The Hiroshima Conference, the success of which was due to the close co-operation of all these forces, enabled us, among other things, to take up a question which had hitherto been neglected to a certain extent, though never forgotten. It is the question of those made homeless and those injured by the atom bombs. Their fate concerns all Japanese and all decent people throughout the world. They number some 160,000 and the condition of 30,000 of them gives grounds for great disquiet. They are in danger of dying if they are not helped quickly.

For the success of this campaign, I appeal here for the solidarity of friends of peace all over the world. In Japan the problem has once again brought the representatives of all the peace forces to unite.

I would like to digress at this point to remark that some people, considering the outline I have just drawn of the Japanese situation, may think that the task of the Japanese Peace Council is relatively easy. Not at all. Without the Peace Movement the struggle against the bases could easily take the form of mere disputes between the landowners and the authorities. It is thanks to our activity, explanations and propaganda work that the peasants and agricultural workers have been able to appreciate the more serious danger involved: the preparation of atomic war. Another thing — in spite of appearances, the Japanese are not generally readily convinced of the value of their signatures. This meant that there was plenty of patient explaining and convincing to do, which was often carried out by our Movement alone.

At present our task is to maintain and consolidate the co-operation of the Japanese peace forces. Our people will need this in the current campaign against rearmament plans and the sending of Japanese troops overseas.

---

(1) This is a short documentary film shot in Tachikawa which shows the different aspects of the struggle carried on by the people against the extension of the military base. It contains striking shots of "resistance without resisting."

(2) The two Socialist Parties are now united.

Italian Writers Support Sholokhov's Proposal for a World Round-table Meeting

THE press, and particularly the literary reviews of many countries, have noted the proposal made by Mikhail Sholokhov, the Soviet novelist, to the writers of the world. As readers know, the author of Quiet Flows the Don sent a letter to the Moscow magazine Foreign Literature in which he stressed the Soviet people's desire for a considerable extension of cultural relations with foreign countries. Among a number of suggestions, Sholokhov said:

"The writers of the world should have their own round-table. We may have different opinions, but we are united by one thing: desire to be useful to man.

"And as for us Soviet writers, we sincerely wish that our friendly links with all writers were as close and active as our relations with fellow writers in many countries of the East and West, relations that are getting stronger year by year.

"I would be very happy to know what my American, British, West German and Japanese colleagues think about this.

"I speak of them in the first instance because it is just with these countries that our cultural relations have left much to be desired..."

This idea has been welcomed by writers. In India, for example, it has been widely commented on, and Indian writers gave it careful consideration at their Hyderabad meeting at the end of October.

Italian reaction has also been very favourable. The magazine Realta Sovietica, published in Rome, asked a number of writers for their views. Those who have already replied are in favour. Below are some of the replies.

* * *

Carlo Levi, well-known painter and author of such a best seller as Christ Stopped at Eboli, said:

"I think that Sholokhov's proposal for a round-table meeting of the world's writers should be welcomed, and I hope that the new climate which seems to be developing at the present time will enable it to be put into practice. As for myself, I may say that I am all the more in favour of Sholokhov's idea because in recent years I have had occasion to take part in various efforts to attain results of this kind. I would like to add that in my view the round-table meeting should be the starting-point of a series of measures for permanent exchange of literary works between countries. The new Soviet review devoted to contemporary foreign literature, and reviews of the same kind which exist or can be created in other countries, for example, could agree to exchange texts and publish special issues. Or the round-table meeting could straight away create an international literary review, to be published simultaneously in a number of capitals, which would not only make permanent literary exchanges possible but would contain full and systematic information on creative activity in the different countries."

The famous poet Giuseppe Ungaretti had the following to say:

"I consider that Sholokhov's proposal to bring writers of all points of view and from all countries together at a round-table meeting is opportune and deserves support. Besides, the publication by the review Foreign Literature of a representative selection of contemporary foreign literature cannot but help to make these works known and be, at this time, an instrument of better mutual understanding between peoples.

"Personnally, I consider it an honour that I have collaborated in the past with Pasternak on various reviews and that, in 1933, I translated poems by Essenin with Franz Hellun and Maria Miloslavsky."

"Three years ago I published a volume entitled The Peoples Speak to Each Other, a second edition of which is appearing now, and so I cannot be otherwise than in favour of such discussions in both the political and cultural spheres," writes Luigi Russo, Professor of Italian Literature at Pisa University, editor of the review Belfagor and author of a number of works of literary criticism. So I send my warmest wishes for Sholokhov's initiative — the *détente* is progressing every day."

Giuseppe Dessi makes a practical proposal:

"I find Sholokhov's proposal excellent and extremely opportune, and I hope that it will be accepted by the writers of the world, for only thus can it have the effect desired by its initiator. Of course, it is not merely a question of giving one's support — one must make a personal contribution and a sincere pledge. It would, in my opinion, be useful to set up a committee as soon as possible to study what can be done and to be the nucleus of the round-table meeting. The need for international exchanges to promote contact between writers and readers throughout the world is strongly felt in Italy."

Franco Fortini, a well-known writer, recalls in his reply that he played an active part in the Cultural Commission of the World Assembly for Peace in Helsinki last July, and mentions some of the proposals made there to promote contact between writers' organisations in all countries and to prepare for an international literary and artistic congress. He adds:

"However, I would like to suggest — and I believe many friends think likewise — that the setting-up of a great international body and the holding of a congress should perhaps follow rather than precede a series of contacts between individuals and small groups competent in the matter."

Eusebio Garin, a writer and professor of philosophy, author of Essays on Italian Philosophy, 1900—1943; Italo Calvino, a young and already famous writer who has published a number of works including The Path of the Spiders' Web; Emilio Cecchi, Leone Piccioni, Piero Bigongiari and others have also stated their agreement with the proposed world meeting of writers.

a good example of cultural exchange

October 17-23 was French Film Week in the Soviet Union.

French films were shown in the biggest cinemas of Moscow and Leningrad, including The Red and the Black, Thérèse Raquin, The Fugitives, Les Grandes Manœuvres, The Wages of Fear, Juliette, and A Woman's Love. Soviet critics gave a warm welcome to the films which were shown from morning till night; and the cinemas were full.

For example, more than 100,000 people saw them at Moscow Udarnik Cinema.

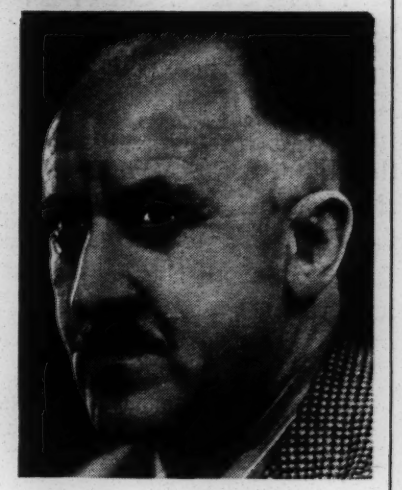
A delegation of French film actors that went to the Soviet Union for the Film Work included such famous names as Gerard Philipe, Daniele Darrieux, Nicole Courcel and Dany Robin. They were acclaimed many times by the public. A number of very friendly meetings took place between them and audiences and they were besieged by autograph hunters, particularly Gerard Philipe who is very popular with Soviet cinema-goers.

At their last meeting — with Soviet film-makers — the French delegates were asked if they would like to make films in collaboration with their Soviet colleagues. Dany Robin gave an enthusiastic "yes" which was warmly applauded by all those present.

Moscow newspapers published many articles and reports on the French cinema and on the Film Week, and a team of French journalists covered the festival.

During the week the announcement that a Soviet film festival would soon be held in France aroused great interest.

Halldor Laxness Awarded Nobel Prize for Literature



Halldor Kiljan Laxness, the great Icelandic novelist, has been awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature by the Swedish Royal Academy. In 1953, Halldor Laxness was awarded an International Peace Prize by the World Council of Peace in public recognition of the eminent service he has rendered to the cause of peace and friendship between peoples through his creative activity.

This latest recognition of the exceptional qualities of his work and the liberal spirit that pervades it, finds Laxness at the prime of life and at the height of his literary powers. The people, who want a life in which friendship and co-operation are the rule, and all who want a finer life for everyone, can always draw encouragement from Laxness' books in their struggle for peace. His thousands and thousands of friends and admirers in the World Peace Movement rejoice at this new triumph for the great Icelandic writer, who has succeeded in being an enthusiastic worker for peace without in any way sacrificing his creative activity.

Cervantes Commemorations

in Brazil

The 350th anniversary of the publication of Don Quixote will be the occasion for big cultural events in Sao Paulo. Brazilian and Spanish intellectuals have issued the following statement in this connection — a statement which has won wide support in the city.

"This year sees the 350th anniversary of the publication of Don Quixote, Cervantes' immortal work. This date is being commemorated by cultural circles in every country in the world which, down the years, have hailed the story of the Knight of La Mancha as one of the richest contributions to mankind's cultural heritage for its profound humanity and the perfection of its literary form.

"In order that this event — so significant for world literature — may be fittingly commemorated in Sao Paulo, the undersigned artists and intellectuals have formed a sponsoring committee for the Cervantes celebrations and propose to promote competitions, exhibitions, lectures, theatrical performances, studies, new editions, and other such ways of popularizing the life and work of Miguel de Cervantes.

Mario Donato, writer; Joao Accioli, poet, secretary for education and culture of the Sao Paulo Prefecture; Menoti del Picchia, M.P., member of the Brazilian Literary Academy, President of the Sao Paulo branch of the Brazilian Writers' Association; Carmen Dolores Barbosa, writer; Fernando Goes, writer; Artur Neves, writer, secretary of the Sao Paulo branch of the Brazilian Writers' Association; Antonio Rangel Bandeira, poet, director of cultural exchanges of the Sao Paulo branch of the Brazilian Writers' Association and of the Poetry Club; Mario da Silva Brito, poet and critic; Eduardo Fernandez y Gonzalez, writer, member of the Institutes of History and Geography of Sao Paulo, Minas Gerais and Sergipe; Cid Franco, State Deputy, writer; Emiliano di Cavalcanti, painter; Brasil Bandecchi, writer; Carlos Lopez Bouza, painter; Manuel Ruiz Elizegui, journalist; Emilio Mira y Lopez, teacher; Clovis Graciano, painter; Ruggero Jacobbi, dramatist, secretary of the Brazilian Peace Movement; Sandro Polloni, director of the People's Art Theatre; Maria Della Costa, actress; Cacilda Becker, actress; Lima Barreto, film maker; Ziembinsky, art director of the Brazilian Comedy Theatre; Miguel Sansigolo, teacher, member of the Sao Paulo City Council; Bruno Giorgi, sculptor; Eduardo de Guarnieri, director of the Sao Paulo Municipal Orchestra; Mariano Trucharte, General of the Spanish Republican Army; Oduvaldo Viana, dramatist, director of Tupi Television in Rio de Janeiro; Tulio de Lemos, radio programme producer; Nabor Caires de Brito, journalist; Paulo Emilio de Sales Gomes, director of the Film Library of the Museum of Modern Art; and Julio Gouveia, principal of the Sao Paulo Dramatic School."

. . . Cuba

The Havana Humanist Circle held an outstanding literary evening to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the publication of Don Quixote in the building of the Fine Arts Circle. Dr. Roman de las Pozas, president of the Circle, gave a lecture on the importance of Cervantes' work for understanding between people. Professor Mrs. Blanca Dopico, of Havana University, spoke on "Humanity in the work of Cervantes." The programme was televised, thus becoming widely known throughout the country.

A ceremony in honour of Walt Whitman will soon be held at Havana University to pay homage to that great progressive poet, an active protagonist of understanding among men.

. . . and Hungary

On September 27 last the Hungarian Peace Council, the Hungarian Writers' Association and the Society for the Popularisation of the Social and Cultural Sciences held a joint meeting in honour of Cervantes in the main hall of the Eötvös Lorant University. A large audience heard Professor Laszlo Kardos, Kossuth Prize winner, make the opening speech, after which Professor Albert Gyergyai gave a very interesting lecture on the life, work and times of Cervantes.

The lecture was followed by a concert which included readings of passages from Don Quixote, music for viola and harpsichord, and Spanish songs dating from Cervantes' time.

International Exhibition of Art for Peace

Dutch artists and students propose holding an art exhibition in Amsterdam to which artists throughout the world would contribute. The aim of the exhibition will be to bring together a collection of works of art containing a message of peace, thus contributing to the struggle against atomic war.

Artists in more than 100 countries have already promised to exhibit. The Organising Committee will accept the following: posters, drawings and works of art illustrating ideas of peace and struggle against war.

The committee has sent out a circular by which it hopes to attract artists who wish to uphold peace between the peoples.

All contributions should be sent to: Harry Visser, Lauriergracht 74, Amsterdam C, Netherlands. The Secretary of the Committee is: Fred Sötebedr, Freek Oxstraat 8, Amsterdam VII, Netherlands.

Mickiewicz in the Soviet Union

The centenary of the death of the great Polish poet Mickiewicz is being widely commemorated in the Soviet Union.

In Byelorussia it is being celebrated as a festival of friendship between all peoples. There has been a choral festival at Lake Switiaz; and a museum containing pictures, reproductions, busts and personal belongings of Mickiewicz, together with his books, is about to be opened at Novogrudok. Excursions are being organised to places where the poet once lived and worked; talks on him are being held in the schools; and a literary evening, in which writers from Minsk took part, has been held in the House of Culture in Novogrudok.

In Lithuania, the University is preparing an exhibition on his life and literary work, plaques are being put up at places where he lived, and his works are being published in Lithuanian.

Leningrad's museums are also preparing a big exhibition which will contain valuable documents sent from several countries of Europe.

In the Ukraine many composers have set some of his romances to music and composed new symphonic works based on his ballads and lyrical poems.

ARGENTINE PEACE COUNCIL AFFIRMS POSITION

STATEMENT ON DOMESTIC SITUATION CONVOKES NATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE

IN connection with the events which brought about the recent change of government in Argentina, the Argentine Peace Council has issued a statement directed to the people and to the new authorities. This manifesto begins: "In face of the events which are disturbing the country, the Argentine Peace Council reaffirms its position of independence of all parties and ideologies. It reaffirms that its specific purpose is the struggle to maintain and consolidate world peace, based on the friendship and active collaboration of all the peoples of the world and on the national sovereignty of each of them."

The statement then points out that the war policy of the government which has now been deposed had made peace activity difficult. "In spite of this, and thanks to the strength of public opinion, we were able to set up and organise a powerful movement, to whose initiative and activity is due, among other successes, the fact that Argentine troops were not sent to Korea. Three and a half million signatures for the banning of atomic weapons support our work. Personalities of all political, ideological and religious views, and organisations of the most varied social composition share our aspirations."

For Friendly Relations with All Countries

The manifesto adds that it is not up to the Movement to express a judgement on the change of government, except in relation to the defense of peace. That is why, while reaffirming its independent line of action, the Council approves the words of General Lonardi, President of the provisional government, when he states that "so far as international relations are concerned, the country will comply with all the rules of international law." But at the same time it stresses its concern at the government's statement that it will respect already existing engagements. "While the former — the rules of international law — lead to friendly relations with all countries, the latter — observance of existing engagements — can drag us into war for reasons foreign to the national interest and even contrary to it." (This passage refers to the pacts of Rio de Janeiro and Bogota and to the Washington and Caracas agreements.)

The statement then alludes to government statements rejecting the "third position favourable to the "Western world" taken up by the former President, Peron. The Council points out that the "third position" in fact never existed and that it was only a mask for an essentially warlike policy. "In these circumstances, it is not possible to announce the rejection of this false third position of the previous government and its replacement by unilateral participation in what is called the 'Western bloc.' It would be the same policy under another name and would have similar dangerous consequences. This is contrary to the country's tradition of universality in international affairs, clearly stated in the maxim 'America for humanity' which is opposed to any restriction based on ideology or continental demarcations."

It points out that this would also be contrary to the new international climate created by the Geneva Conference of the Heads of Government of the four Great Powers, made possible by the pressure of world public opinion.

National Aims

In addition to the general aims of the Peace Movement, the Argentine Council sums up its position in four points containing the specific aims of the Peace Movement in Argentine:

1) "The need for the country to win freedom of action on the international plane by denunciation or by non-implementation of the Pacts of Rio de Janeiro and Bogota and the Washington and Caracas agreements, which place military, economic and political obligations on us towards certain powers as opposed to others... In conformity with its international tradition, Argentine should collaborate with all nations for the good of all";

2) The rejection of all military, economic and political interference by one country in the affairs of another, for all the peoples of the world have the right to free self-determination;

The Argentine Peace Movement has opposed and continues to oppose the handing over of the country's oil and other national wealth to foreigners, demanding that they should be exploited for the benefit of the country and of peace. "On the basis of such a national policy, we urge the development of economic, technical, scientific and cultural exchanges with all the peoples of the world, on a footing of equality, mutual respect and mutual advantage."

3) The need to revise the present budget which, "as a result of the war policy of the previous government, allocates large sums for military and unproductive expenditure to the detriment of the country's economic needs, the people's welfare and technical, scientific and cultural progress";

4) In short, it is the duty and responsibility of the people to promote a peace policy. In order to mobilise and organise them for this aim, it is necessary to enjoy constitutional freedoms and rights.

In conclusion, the manifesto announces the convening, in December, of a National Peace Conference. It will be held on the initiative of the Argentine Peace Council but representatives of all social circles wanting a policy of peace will jointly take part in preparing and running it.

In spite of the instability of the internal political situation in Argentina, the struggle for peace has made appreciable progress in these last months. During the events that occurred in the country the Peace Movement worked forcefully and effectively, winning the support of new sections of public opinion for its programme. Its prospects have been considerably widened.

Many messages have been sent to the Foreign Ministers in Geneva, asking them to see that the Geneva spirit is respected and that practical measures are taken to further the relaxation of international tension.

The circulation of the Movement's new organ Vocero, which has been appearing regularly since the beginning of August, has increased from 20,000 to 50,000. The big public meeting held on August 6 to commemorate of the victims of Hiroshima and to popularise the results of the World Assembly in Helsinki was a great success and was attended by several thousand people. Secondary school pupils and students, who are once again playing an important role in the national life, are giving the Movement enthusiastic support, and its campaigns have also received the support of well-known politicians and trade unionists of various trends, well-known film and theatre actors like Orestes Caviglia, chess champions like Oscar Panno, who was third at the recent international tournament at Gothenburg, and boxing and other champions.

Argentine doctors, who have carried on important activity against atomic weapons, recently held a meeting at Buenos Aires, that set up a National Doctors' Committee, with the support of a number of personalities, to continue the campaign. The successful activity carried ont by the Argentine Peace Council to defend the national oil industry under the watchword "All our Oil for Argentina and for Peace" won it much sympathy and considerable prestige. Recently, at the suggestion of the Movement, but independently of it, a special committee for the defence of the oil industry was set up, composed of lawyers, scientists and intellectuals.

The collection of signatures to the Appeal against the preparation of atomic war won, in the first months, a much higher number of signatures than were obtained for the Stockholm Appeal; the campaign is now continuing in other forms.

A "Peace House" will soon be formally opened in Buenos Aires.

At present intensive work is going on to ensure the success of the National Assembly for Peace in December. Personalities and organisations which, though not in the Movement, share its desire for a peace policy, have already declared their intention to take part in the Assembly.

Reproduction authorised. Please acknowledge source.

Eigentümer, Herausgeber und Verleger: Roland Vuillaume. Verantwortlicher Redakteur: Gertrude Kaufmann, beide Wien IV, Moellwaldplatz 5. — Druck: Globus II, Wien VI, Gumpendorferstraße 40—44.

[World Peace Council]

PRESS BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY THE INFORMATION SERVICE
OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE
Estate-Haus, Möllwaldplatz 5, Wien IV,
Telephone : U.43.1.93

Special Issue

For Immediate Release

27-13-5

The Bureau of the World Council of Peace met in Helsinki on December 11, 12 and 13.

Its discussions included a study of the international situation and the resulting tasks for the World Peace Movement.

At the end of the session the enclosed appeal was adopted:

A P P E A L

At Geneva the four Heads of State recognised that international differences could be solved by negotiation. They recognised the need to end the threat and use of force. Their agreement was a result of the will and action of the people, who created the spirit of Geneva.

The problems submitted to the Foreign Ministers' Conference could have been solved in the same spirit. By its failure to implement the directive of the Heads of State, the Foreign Ministers' Conference disappointed the hopes of the peoples.

The arms race, continuing in spite of the relaxation of international tension, is the principal obstacle to the success of negotiations between the Four Great Powers.

However, a first agreement on disarmament was and is still possible. This has been shown by the work of the United Nations Organisation. Such an agreement could deal with a limitation of armaments, a pledge not to use nuclear weapons, the banning of test explosions of nuclear weapons and an effective control of these measures. Different schemes have been proposed for the control of armaments: they could now be applied to the first measures of disarmament.

The possibility of disarmament remains a firm hope in the hearts of men. They know that they can live in peace and that scientific discoveries can end the fear of poverty and hunger, ensuring them of continuously increasing welfare.

The Bureau of the World Council of Peace calls for action in all countries in all the different ways possible to stop the arms race and bring about first agreements on the reduction of armaments and the abolition of atomic weapons.

To allow a discussion on all points of view and to help the full development of all efforts, the Bureau has decided to call on the 5th-9th April, 1956 an Extraordinary Session of the World Council of Peace devoted to disarmament and the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The Bureau invites all those who are alarmed by the arms race and wish to end it to take part in this session and bring their views and suggestions: national and international organisations and movements, scientists who have a special contribution to make towards solving these problems, working people who suffer so much from the burden of armaments, all those who condemn war on religious or moral grounds.

Each step taken towards the reduction of armaments will allow new measures of disarmament to be worked out and accomplished. Each step taken in this direction will help re-establish confidence and assist in the settlement of questions in dispute. Each step taken in this direction will bring nearer the time when distrust and fear will give place to peaceful co-operation between all countries and friendship between all peoples.

THE BUREAU OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE,
Helsinki, 13th December 1955

++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++

27-3-6

To the members of the World Council for information

RECOMMENDATION ON MALAYA

The ending of hostilities in Malaya and the news of the offer of negotiations was greeted with satisfaction by all who desire peace in the world.

The report of the reopening of hostilities by large-scale air and ground bombardment, therefore, came as a great shock.

These methods cannot in any way help the cause of a negotiated peace. They will only lead to further bloodshed and make a settlement more difficult.

We appeal for the immediate ending of the fighting and for sincere negotiations which must take place with respect for the right of people to self-determination.

This is the only way a settlement can be reached which is acceptable to all concerned and which will provide a peaceful life for the people of Malaya.

THE BUREAU OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE,
Helsinki, 13th December, 1955

++++++++++

RECOMMENDATION ON THE SITUATION IN THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

While the meeting of the Heads of State led international relations in the direction of a lessening of tension, the signing of the Bagdad pact and the creation of a new military bloc in the Near and Middle East, the pressures exerted on different countries to make them join, aggravate international tension and constitute a serious danger for security and peace in this region of the world.

The Bureau of the World Council has always opposed the division of the world into hostile military blocs and the existence of foreign military bases on the territory of different countries. It proclaims once again that it is through peaceful co-operation between all countries irrespective of their political and social regime, and not through the formation of military coalitions, that the peace, security and independence of the nations can be assured.

THE BUREAU OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE,
Helsinki, 13th December, 1955

++++++++++

27-13-4